

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled, and new claims 16-33 have been submitted above.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102 based on Madison et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as applied to new claims 16-33, as follows.

Madison et al. disclose an authorized user group ID that corresponds to a group of end users 102 that are authorized to view a particular playlist. Madison et al. also disclose a database 108 that includes an Authorized User Table 206 that correlates each end user 102, as identified by a unique end user ID, to one or more authorized user group IDs. However, in contrast to new claim 16, Madison et al. do not disclose correlation of two (or more) user names to a same userID, correlation of the two (or more) user names to two (or more) respective groups, table entries listing for each user name and each group a respective resource that the user name or group can access, and an authorization means, responsive to receipt of a request based on the userID to access a resource and authentication of the userID, for determining whether any of a first name, second name, first group or second group is authorized to access the requested resource, and if so, granting the userID access to the requested resource. Therefore, the rejection under 35 USC 102 should not be applied to claim 16 or dependent claims 17-21. Moreover, Madison et al. do not suggest the indirect technique of correlating two (or more) user names to a userID and correlating the user name to two (or more) groups as recited in claim 16 for determining if the userID is authorized to access a requested resource based on the user name or group. Therefore, claim 16 was not obvious in view of Madison et al.

Independent claims 22 and 28 distinguish over Madison et al. for similar reasons that new claim 16 distinguishes over Madison et al. Claims 23-27 depend on claim 22, and claims 29-33 depend on claim 28.

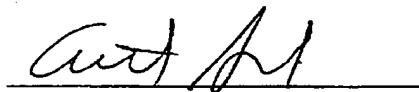
Original claim 13 was also rejected under 35 USC 101 because the Examiner asserted that "claim 13 was not limited to tangible embodiments. ... In view of Applicant's disclosure, none of the pages describe a computer readable medium, but instead discloses an authorization program." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as applied to new claims 28-33 based on the following. The specification discloses "Figure 4 illustrates the authentication program 15 (steps 50 and 52) and authorization program 19 (steps 56, 58, 60, 62, 68, 70 and 80) within server 16." Figure 1 illustrates server 16. Original claim 13 recites a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium; and wherein the first, second and third program instruction means are recorded on the computer readable medium. It is well settled that claims, as filed, are considered part of the specification. Therefore, there is support in the specification for new claims 28-33 which recite a computer readable medium and program instructions recorded on the medium. Moreover, new claim 28 like original claim 13 recites a computer readable medium which is a tangible embodiment. Therefore, no rejection under 35 USC 101 should be made against new claims 28-33. Figure 1 has been amended (in red) to show the computer readable medium. No new matter has been added in view of original claim 13 and the common meaning of the term "computer readable medium".

Based on the foregoing, the present patent application as amended above should be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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ANNOTATED FIGURE 1

FIG. 1

